

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

Elements of Business Law. By Ernest W. Huffcut. Revised by George Gleason Bogert, Professor of Law in the Cornell University College of Law. Ginn & Co., Boston. 1917.

Perhaps there is no study more interesting to the college student than the subject of Business Law. When this book was first published, eleven years ago, it filled a long-needed want in the teaching of the elementary principles of law. It has stood the test of time and has been pronounced "the best single volume text for laymen upon the subject."

Since the first edition of the book many important changes in the law have made a revision essential. The present edition follows the plan of the first, the new matter consisting partly of the various uniform laws adopted by many states, amendments to the Interstate Commerce Act regarding carriers. Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts, the Torrens system of land registration, and the Federal Reserve Banking Act.

Some of the important additions to the book consist in a statement of the substance of the various uniform laws and a list of the states which have adopted each, notably the Uniform Sales Act, Uniform Warehouse Receipts Law, Uniform Bills of Lading Act, and the Uniform Stock Transfer Act. The chapter on Master and Servant has been enlarged and improved by a concise statement of the Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts, together with their practical application in the various states. The Torrens system of land registration and the Federal Reserve Banking System have been briefly and clearly explained.

The revision by Professor Bogert has brought the book down to date and has greatly increased its value as a standard text for the teaching of the legal principles involved in the subject.

H. A. Dicker, '17.

The Law of Promoters. By Manfred W. Ehrich. Albany. Matthew Bender and Company. 1916. pp. lxi, 645.

The great increase in corporate organization in late years has resulted in the accumulation of a mass of case law dealing with the rights and liabilities arising out of and in connection with the formation and promotion of corporations. Mr. Ehrich has undertaken to review the whole subject and bring it down to date by collecting the cases and arranging them in a logical order. The book is an exhaustive compilation of both the American and English decisions, a large part of the text being made up of quotations from the cases and summaries of their holdings. In this respect it resembles more closely a digest than a text book, but the material is well arranged and carefully indexed and should, for these reasons, make an excellent reference book. The author refrains generally from expressing his own opinions and rarely analyzes a decision. The book would be of much more value, had the author seen fit to state concisely the fundamental principles of the law, and then shown that the decisions

in accord therewith were sound, and at the same time pointed out the fallacies or unsoundness of those decisions in conflict. The book will be of value to attorneys because of the mass of authorities collected and their arrangement, but it is doubtful whether the author has succeeded in fulfilling his other purpose, namely, that of aiding the academic student of the law. There are so many quotations and so many summaries of holdings in the text, which might better have been supplanted by general statements of the law with citations to authorities, that the student, unless he analyzes the decisions and draws his own conclusions as to the law, will get little help.

Frank B. Ingersoll, '17.